कंवेंशन (1983), हवेलिंग विनियमन कंवेंशन (1981) अंटार्कटिक संधि (1983) समुद्र-कानून-कवेंशन (1982), जलवायु परिवर्तन कंवेंशन (1992) और जैव विविधता कंवेंशन (1992) जैसे प्रमुख कवेंशनों और साधयों में प्रतिभागित. ।

**Approval of irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh**

4541. SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of irrigation projects falling under submersible areas of forest land, which have been submitted by Madhya Pradesh Government to the Government of India for its approval during the last three years; and

(b) Whether such projects on which Government had already spent money before the year, 1990 have also been rejected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) During the last three years, 74 proposals for clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and 2 proposals for environmental clearance for irrigation projects in Madhya Pradesh involving forest land have been received from the State Government. None of these projects has been rejected.

**Allotment of forest land to Private Parties**

4542. SHRI JANARDHAN YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for allotment of forest land to private parties for development;

(b) whether revenue is collected on such land by State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the forest land to be given to private parties for development in Madhya Pradesh during 1995-96; and

(e) the revenue like to be collected therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Prior approval of the Central Government is required under Section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes and for assignment of forest land to any organisation not owned, controlled or managed by the Government. Detailed consolidated guidelines have been issued by this Ministry for processing and examination of the proposals received under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in this regard. However, in view of the increasing threat of encroachment upon the large quantum of degraded forest land in the country and the need to afforest it urgently so as to expend green cover, inhibit encroachment and halt soil denudation and also to meet rural fuel and fodder needs and thereby to reduce pressure on existing natural forests and protected areas the Govenment is considering to involve industry in afforestation of severely degraded areas in partnership with State Forest Development Corporations so as to augment the efforts and the financial resources available for afforestation schemes of the Central and State Governments; NGOs and people's cooperatives.

(b) and (c) While according approval to the proposals of the State Governments for diversion of forest land for non-forest purpose; condition of compensatory afforestation; if applicable; is stipulated by the Central Government. As per this condition, the user agency is required to deposit the funds for compensatory afforestation in favour of the State Government.

(d) So far no approval has been accorded under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for allotment of forest

land to private parties for development during 1995-96.

(e) Does not arise.

**Proposal to raise water charges for Industry**

4543. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has proposed to raise the water charegs for industry;

(b) if so, the reasons which led to submit such proposal; and

(c) the details of steps taken to avoid frequent increase in water charges for the indsutry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Water cess is levied to augment the financial resources of State Pollution Control Boards. The present responsibilities of State Boards are continuing to increase resulting in requirement of additional resources. Further, the level of existing cess rates has not proved sufficient to motivate consumers to reduce water consumption. This has been confirmed through several studies. These studies strongly argue that the water charges should be commensurate with the cost of effluent treatment, and push consumers to promote water conservaton by making industries pay more for higher water consumption. It is thus necessary that these charges are revised, whenever required, in relation to the cost of effeuent treatment.

**Creation of a movement to save Historical Monuments**

4544. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Environmental Society has demanded creation of a movement to save the country's historical monuments like the Taj Mahal.

(b) if so, the details therefor. with objectives;

(c) whether a large number of archaeological sites and historical monuments of the country are getting affected by variations in weather, rainfall and different pollutents in the air;

(d) if so, the names of each, with locations, and reasons for variations in each case;

(e) whether Government propose to involve experts from regulatory bodies of Government Research Institutions, Universities, Industries and Non-Governmental organisatioss to work out plans and programmes to preserve the Taj Mahal, on a sustained basis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Indian Environmental Society had issued a press note stressing the need to bring together various experts from the regulatory bodies of the Government, Research Institutions, Universties, Industries and non-governmental organisations to work out plans and programmes to preserve the country's historical monuments.

(c) and (d) The effects of weather and rainfall on the archaeological sites and historical monuments of the country are a continuous process, which have been going on for centuries. Environmental Pollution also has an adverse effect on marble, sandstone and other building materials. However, no specific signs of accelerated decay of the monuments due to environmental pollution have been conclusively proved so far.

(e) and (f) In compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court, Government has already constituted an